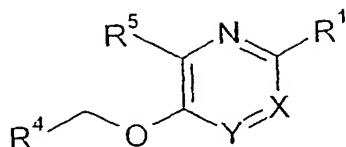


## Claims

1. A compound of the formula I:



wherein:

- 5 -X=Y- is selected from -CR<sup>2</sup>=CR<sup>3</sup>- and -CR<sup>2</sup>=N-;  
 R<sup>1</sup> is selected from H, halo, NRR', NHC(=O)R, NHC(=O)NRR', NH<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>R, and C(=O)NRR', where R and R' are independently selected from H and C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, and are optionally substituted by OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>5-20</sub> carboaryl, C<sub>5-20</sub> heteroaryl and C<sub>3-20</sub> heterocyclyl, or may  
 10 together form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, an optionally substituted nitrogen containing C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclyl group;  
 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> (where present) are independently selected from H, optionally substituted C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl, optionally substituted C<sub>5-20</sub> aryl, optionally substituted C<sub>3-20</sub> heterocyclyl, halo, amino, amido, hydroxy, ether, thio, thioether, acylamido, ureido and sulfonamino;  
 15 R<sup>4</sup> an optionally substituted C<sub>5-20</sub> carboaryl or C<sub>5-20</sub> heteroaryl group; and  
 20 R<sup>5</sup> is selected from R<sup>5'</sup>, halo, NHR<sup>5'</sup>, C(=O)NHR<sup>5'</sup>, OR<sup>5'</sup>, SR<sup>5'</sup>, NHC(=O)R<sup>5'</sup>, NHC(=O)NHR<sup>5'</sup>, NHS(=O)<sub>2</sub>R<sup>5'</sup>, wherein R<sup>5'</sup> is H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl (optionally substituted by halo, NH<sub>2</sub>, OH, SH);  
 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof for use in a method of therapy.
- 25
2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein -X=Y- is -CR<sup>2</sup>=N-.
3. A compound according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is selected from R<sup>5'</sup>, halo, NHR<sup>5'</sup>, OR<sup>5'</sup>, SR<sup>5'</sup>, wherein R<sup>5'</sup> is H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, optionally substituted by halo, NH<sub>2</sub>, OH, SH.
- 30
4. A compound according to claim 3, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is selected from H and NH<sub>2</sub>.

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5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from H,  $NRR'$ ,  $NHC(=O)R$ ,  $NHC(=O)NRR'$ , and  $NH_2SO_2R$ .

5 6. A compound according to claim 6, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from H and  $NH_2$ .

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  (where present) are independently selected from H, halo, amino, hydroxy and thio.

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8. A compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  (where present) are selected from H and halo.

15 9. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein  $R^4$  is an optionally substituted  $C_{5-10}$  aryl group.

10. A compound according to claim 9, wherein  $R^4$  is selected from a  $C_{5-10}$  carboaryl group and a  $C_{5-10}$  heteroaryl group having one or two nitrogen ring atoms.

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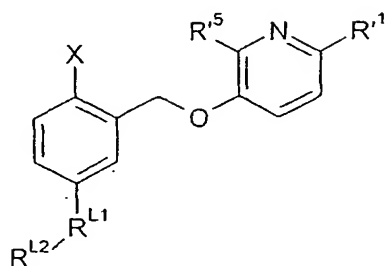
11. A compound according to claim 10, wherein  $R^4$  is an optionally substituted phenyl or naphthyl group.

25 12. A compound according to claim 11, wherein  $R^4$  is a phenyl group substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from halo, ether,  $C_{1-7}$  alkyl,  $C_{5-20}$  aryl, amido, acylamido, ureido, carbamate and reverse carbamate.

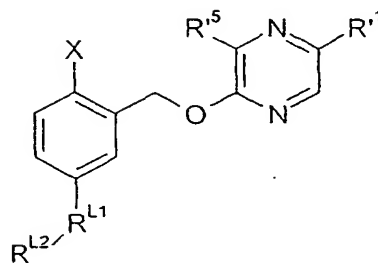
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13. A compound according to claim 1 of either formula IIa or formula IIb:



(IIa)



(IIb)

wherein:

- $R'^1$  is selected from H,  $NR^{C1}R^{C2}$ ,  $NHC(=O)R^{C1}$ ,  $NHC(=O)NR^{C1}R^{C2}$ ,  $NH_2SO_2R^{C1}$ ,  
 5 and  $C(=O)NR^{C1}R^{C2}$ , where  $R^{C1}$  and  $R^{C2}$  are independently selected from H and  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, and are optionally substituted by OH,  $NH_2$ ,  $C_{5-20}$  carboaryl, and  $C_{5-20}$  heteroaryl, or may together form, with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, an optionally substituted nitrogen containing  $C_{5-7}$  heterocyclyl group;  
 10  $R'^5$  is selected from H and  $NH_2$ ;  
 X is selected from H and halo;  
 $R^{L1}$  is selected from  $-NH-C(=O)-$ ,  $-NH-C(=O)-NH-$ ,  $-NH-C(=O)-O-$  or  $-O-C(=O)-NH-$ ;  
 $R^{L2}$  is selected from H, optionally substituted  $C_{5-20}$  carboaryl and  
 15 optionally substituted  $C_{5-20}$  heteroaryl, except that  $R^{L2}$  cannot be H when  $R^{L1}$  is  $-NH-C(=O)-O-$ .

14. A compound according to claim 13 of formula IIa.

- 20 15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein  $R'^1$  is selected from H and  $NR^{C1}R^{C2}$ .

16. A compound according to claim 15, wherein  $R'^1$  is selected from H and  $NHR^{C1}$ .

25

17. A compound according to any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein  $R'^5$  is H.

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18. A compound according to any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein X is halo.
19. A compound according to any one of claims 14 to 18, wherein  
5  $R^{L1}$  is  $-NH-C(=O)-$ .
20. A compound according to any one of claims 14 to 19, wherein  $R^{L2}$  is a  $C_{5-20}$  carboaryl or  $C_{5-20}$  heteroaryl group.
- 10 21. A compound according to claim 13, of formula IIb.
22. A compound according to claim 21, wherein  $R'^1$  is selected from H and  $NR^{C1}R^{C2}$ .
- 15 23. A compound according to either claim 21 or claim 22, wherein  $R'^5$  is H.
24. A compound according to any one of claims 21 to 23, wherein X is halo.
- 20 25. A compound according to any one of claims 21 to 24, wherein  $R^{L1}$  is  $-NH-C(=O)-NH-$ .
26. A compound according to any one of claims 21 to 25, wherein  
25  $R^{L2}$  is a  $C_{5-20}$  carboaryl or  $C_{5-20}$  heteroaryl group.
27. A compound of formula IIa or IIb as described in any one of claims 13 to 26, or an isomer, salt, solvate or prodrugs thereof.
- 30 28. A composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
29. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 26  
35 for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of condition ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase.

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30. The use according to claim 29, wherein the conditions ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase is an arthritic condition.

5 31. A method for the treatment of a condition ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase comprising administering to a subject suffering from said a condition ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 26.

10 32. The method according to claim 29, wherein the conditions ameliorated by the inhibition of p38 MAP kinase is an arthritic condition.

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